ancient rocks of the same formation as the hills of the Liaotung Peninsula, just to the north, in Manchuria. ErosionTia> Bounded their contours and broadened their valleys. The most famous peak is T'ai Shan, slightly over five thousand feet high, the chief of the sacred mountains of China. To it for centuries the Chinese have looked with veneration and to it continue to come thousands of pilgrims. Thanks to its rocky formation and to the subsidence of the coast, the Shantung promontory possesses excellent bar-bprs, notably Kiaochow Bay.

To the north of the North China plain high hills lead up to the Mongolian table-land//To the west rise first the mountains and plateaus of Shansi and then the mountains a*id valleys of Shensi and KansuJ Loess blankets much of the country, but the culti-vated land is largely in the valleys and on the adjacent terraced hillsides. There are a few plains. How much of the land was wooded in primitive times we do not know. It seems fairly certain that over large portions of the area trees were sparse or entirely lacking. However, forests once covered much more of the coun-try than now. Where they were cut the hillsides were rapidly eroded and the valleys often gutted with debris. & Most of the valleys are narrow, but there are exceptions. The qjiief of these is where the Wei, just above its confluence with the I^ellow River as the latter breaks out of the mountains on the <}£thern leg of its great northern bend to turn sharply to the east, d^s through a broad and fertile plain. Here was an early seat of - iiiiinese culture. Here, too, have been some of China's capitals, Hsianfu (Ch'angan), and here have been enacted many most famous scenes of China's history.

-T$i\ansi is, as has been said, made up largely of mountains and '"'- .^aus. These buttress the Mongolian highland and contain ex-
:*£'sive coal measures. The most notable peak, and one of the
. jief Buddhist sacred mountains, is Wu T'ai Shan, near the north-
vtltern border of the province. The chief river, the Fen, drains
stmthwestward into the Huang Ho—above the junction of the
latter with the Wei.

West of Shansi the mountains become higher until in parts of Kansu they attain to elevations of twenty thousand feet and more. As one proceeds westward, moreover, the valleys become nar-
rower and the population more sparse than in the East. The Yel-